Atsui Hibi

-Midorikawa Yuki

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NAMELESS GUEST

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
SOMETHING SERIOUS HAS JUST HAPPENED
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, CALM DOWN MISS.
Grrrr!
ARE THEY GOING TO LOCK US UP IN THIS SMALL ROOM FOREVER?!
A GROUP OF ARMED MEN HAVE INFILTRATED A PARTY THAT WAS ATTENDED BY PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD.
CAUSING A RUCKUS ISN'T GOING TO HELP ANYONE.
I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL COME AND SAVE US HAVE SOME PATIENCE
EVERYONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE DURING THE CHAOS,
Even this child...
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO DIDN'T MANAGE TO ESCAPE...
THE MEN THEN SEIZED THIS EVENT HALL.
BUT UNLUCKILY FOR US, WE WERE CAUGHT AND TAKEN AS HOSTAGES HERE.

名前のない客
Nameless Guest

IF ANY ONE OF US ESCAPES, THE REST OF US WILL GET KILLED.
BUT,
I GUESS SO..
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID.
I GUESS THEY WANT THE HOSTAGES TO GUARD EACH OTHER.
AH!
WE HAVEN'T INTRODUCED OURSELVES YET, WOULD EVERYONE LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES?
I AGREE!
AH, I ALREADY KNOW YOUR NAME.
WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE DEPRESSED
THAT'S A NICE IDEA
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON WHY I CAME TO--
rattle rattle
rattle
open
HEY, EVERY-BODY,
HAS EVERYBODY BEEN GOOD?

!!
Thud
SHE WAS HIDING BENEATH THE STAIRS
NEVER THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER IDIOT LIKE YOU GUYS WHO NEVER MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
NOW THERE'S FIVE HOSTAGES.
HAVE FUN GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
WAIT!
DON'T YOU FEEL SHAMEFUL FOR TREATING A GIRL SO ROUGHLY?!
DISGUSTING
EVEN YOUR ATTIRE IS REALLY..
BY THE WAY, THE AIR CONDITIONING IS A BIT COLD..
YOU ALL BETTER MIND YOUR ATTITUDES!
SLAM!
PLEASE DON'T SIMPLY AGITATE THE CRIMINALS...

A GUY?!
*BREAD ROLL FILLED WITH RED BEAN JAM
EH?!
WAIT... THAT VOICE, ARE YOU A...!
FAKE BREASTS?!
ANYONE WANT TO EAT SOME ANPA*?
Pulls out
W-WHO ARE YOU?!
I'VE COME TO RESCUE SOMEONE BY THE NAME OF TATEISHI HIDEYO.
BE QUIET, UNDER THE COMMAND OF A RENOWNED PERSON,
?!
Ha!
I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE.
WITH A WEALTHY PERSON AS THEIR CLIENT, THERE'S A GROUP THAT'LL DO ANYTHING FROM ESCORTING TO ASSASSINATIONS.
THOSE WHO ACCEPT THOSE SPECIAL TASKS WILL DO ANYTHING AT ALL COSTS TO FULFILL THAT TASK.
EEEH?!
That sounds a bit unreal!

ONE OF YOU IS TATEISHI HIDEYO-SAMA, RIGHT?
SO COME HERE.
YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
Glance
WHY ISN'T ANYONE MOVING?
STRANGE.
...
Scared
WHY DO YOU EVEN NEED TATEISHI HIDEYO TO OWN UP?
SO THAT'S IT.
Zaa
IF ANY ONE OF US LEAVES, EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE KILLED.
Glance

TATEISHI-SAMA IS WORRIED FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL HERE
BUT, TATEISHI-SAMA,
STAYING HERE WITH EVERYONE WON'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL BE SAFE
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PASS THIS CHANCE OFF?
SO,
PLEASE FOLLOW ME, TATEISHI-SAMA
HOLD ON,
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL IN THIS?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN CHECK THE TARGET'S APPEARANCE PROPERLY

Ah!
THAT'S RIGHT... THE AGE?
YOU KNOW NOTHING OTHER THAN THE NAME?
MY EARDRUMS ARE GOING TO BREAK, AS IT WAS SUCH A SUDDEN REQUEST. I ALSO NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE TARGET WOULDN'T CO-OPERATE...
Sigh
I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE, SINCE THE TARGET WON'T CO-OPERATE,
I HAVE NO CHOICE EITHER
AH, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
YOUR TARGET, TATEISHI-SAMA IS AMONGST US, YOU WOULDN'T THINK OF DOING SOMETHING UNREASONABLE?
EH, I HEARD TATEISHI-SAMA IS A VERY CARING PERSON
AND WOULD MIND WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, TOO
I WILL NOT LIE,
LIKE I SAID, I WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY
SO I HOPE TATEISHI-SAMA WILL CO-OPERATE BEFORE I CUT ALL MY FINGERS OFF

!!
FIRST SHALL BE THE LITTLE FINGER.
BA
M!
Thud
Slide
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
STOP BEING SO IRRATIONAL!
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT FOR US TO JUST TIE YOU UP?!
I ABSO-LUTELY CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
tremble
tremble
...

LISTEN! IF YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN,
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
WE ALL THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO BE SAVED!
EVERYONE IS ACTUALLY SO AFRAID THEY'RE ABOUT TO CRY,
IT WASN'T EASY FOR US TO FINALLY GET OURSELVES TOGETHER AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.
HOW CAN YOU PROTECT OTHERS WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN CHERISH YOURSELF!
Ha!
SOMEONE'S COMING.
GYAA!!
QUIET,

そして 三本目
「寒い日も..」

ついに「恋愛モノ」を描くことができました！ｗｗ
難しくて とてもパワーが必要でしたが 今までとはちょっと違う楽しさを感じることができました。
キャラクター達にも かなり助けてもらえた気がします。
遠山が 主人公として 最後まで 描きあげることができたのでは と思っています。

長い間 はたせなかった 約束を やっと はたせたような気持ちでした。
元担当様 新担当様 そして そして 読者様 本当に つきあってくださって ありがとうございました。
今後も 精進しますので ぜひ ご意見や感想 励ましの言葉を きかせてやってくださいませ！

ぐらぐらした文で 申し訳ない？
とにもかくにも ここに入れて頂いた作品は 愛情こめて 創ったものばかりです。どれか ひとつでも 気に入っていただけたら 幸せです。 では。

1/9 あかり。

I'VE COME TO GET YOU.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT, MIFUNE ARISA-SAMA
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PERSON LIKE YOU.
She managed to recognize her target easily.
SHE'S EVEN A BEAUTY!
THAT GIRL IS MIFUNE ARISA...
ONLY THE THREE OF US.
NOW,
YOU HAVE ONE LESS POSSIBILITY FOR TATEISHI-SAMA.

WAIT!
THE ONE I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT IS STILL IN THIS ROOM—
YES.
WE'RE IN THE SAME GUILD, RIGHT!
CLICK
NOW,
Ah!
HMPH, NONE OF MY BUSINESS
DON! DON!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!
IT'S COMING FROM THE HOSTAGES' ROOM!

I HOPE EVERYONE WILL MANAGE TO PROLONG THE TIME.
Suru Suru Suru
Grip
SHU
Smash
Smash
NOW THEN,
THE CEILING HAS A HOLE..!
ah!
RUN RUN RUN
OI! WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?!
Rattle Rattle
THUMP
THUMP
OPEN THIS DOOR YOU BRATS!
OPEN THIS DOOR!
THUMP
THUMP

EEHP!!
I ATE THE ANPA ...
Sorry..
WIG!
SCATCH
SCATCH
W-WHERE'S THE WIG?!
When did he put it on?!
THUMP
T-THE WIG!
AND THE ANPA!
THE SKIRT TOO!
IT'S STILL FUTILE! EVEN IF YOU CHANGED BACK, WE'RE STILL ONE PERSON SHORT!
IF THIS GOES ON, ONE OF US WILL SERIOUSLY GET KILLED!
CLATTER
?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
USE THE TABLES AND CHAIRS TO BLOCK THE DOOR, AND THEN WE'LL ESCAPE BY CLIMBING UP THE ROPE!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES NOW!

BA
M!
WHAT?! THE HOSTAGES HAVE ESCAPED?!
AH! THE CEILING HAS A HOLE
They probably escaped from there
Clank
Clonk
ARISA-CHAN WILL BE FINE, RIGHT...
WITH THAT GIRL PROTECTING HER, SHE'S WAY SAFER THAN WITH ME HAVING TO PROTECT THREE OTHER PEOPLE
Easily pissed, isn't he...
...HEY,
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SINCE THE OPPOSITE PARTY AREN'T GOING TO TELL THEIR OWN NAMES, I HAVE NO NEED TO TELL MINE.
WHY YOU!
GRRR!!
SINCE YOU WON'T TELL US YOUR NAME, I'LL SIMPLY GIVE YOU ONE!
AS YOU PLEASE.

WHAT?
36?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME
...
CUTIE NIGHTINGALE!
DARK SHADOW BOY!
YAMADA TAROU!
I'M 36!
WHERE ARE WE?
LOOKS LIKE AN AIR CONDITIONING ROOM.
Clatter
...
SA-BURO!
SABURO
NUMBER 36
No difference with Yamada Tarou
Revised
open
THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER AIR CONDITIONING ROOM STRAIGHT DOWN THIS HALLWAY ON THE RIGHT.
FROM THE PIPE SHAFT THERE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO THE BASEMENT.
WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO GET TO THE PARKING LOT OF THE PARK NEXT TO THIS BUILDING.

EVERYONE CAN RUN, RIGHT? LET'S GO.
Dash!
THE CRIMINALS' MOTIVE IS TO EXCHANGE YOU ALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THEIR COMRADES.
FROM WHAT I SAW, THERE WERE AROUND 8 OF THEM, 5 OF THEM CARRYING GUNS.
PLEASE DON'T TRY TO GO OUTSIDE. THERE MIGHT BE SOME GUARDS THERE
FORTUNATELY, NONE OF THEM LOOK INTELLIGENT AT ALL...
THIS PLACE IS BIG TOO.
SO THERE'S A LOT OF PLACES WE CAN HIDE.
DON'T WORRY!
WE'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!

SHOCK
DON'T MOVE OR WE'LL SHOOT!
FOUND THEM!
Trip
Thud
GYAA!!
Run
Run
SABU-ROU-KUN!
A!
YOU TWO GO AHEAD!
JUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS I GAVE!
BUT..!
LET'S GO!

THROW!
CLANK
Air-conditioning room
FOUND IT.
THIS MUST BE THE SHAFT.
IT LOOKS BIG ENOUGH FOR US TO FIT THROUGH
PLEASE WAIT, THOSE TWO AREN'T HERE YET.
BUT...
LET'S JUST GO FIRST WITH SABUROU-KUN'S DIRECTIONS.
IN ORDER TO DISTRACT THE CULPRIT FROM US, THEY WILL PROBABLY USE ANOTHER ROUTE TO ESCAPE.
I...
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.
BUT I CAN'T...
...

Run
Run
Ha!
UWA!
BAM!
WHAT NOW?
WHAT NOW?
IF AT THIS PLACE, HE...

IF...
IF HE FINDS OUT I'M NOT TATEISHI HIDEYO.
HE...
SO LET ME WAIT FOR HIM, YOU GO FIRST.
I'D GET YOU OUT NO MATTER WHAT.
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE I MUST GET YOU OUT
HE'S RISKING HIS LIFE ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
A WHILE AGO YOU GAVE UP THAT CHANCE TO SAVE US
SO THIS TIME, I MUST DEFINITELY MAKE SURE YOU ESCAPE THIS ALIVE.

THIS IS FOR SABUROU-KUN'S SAKE TOO.
NOW WE SHOULD BE HELPING HIM LESSEN HIS BURDEN.

RUN
RUN
RUN
FOUND THEM?!
NO, NOT HERE, TOO...
HURRY AND FIND THEM!
RUN RUN RUN...
Haa
Haa
Haa
WHAT NOW?
IF AT THIS PLACE AND TIME LIKE THIS,
HE FINDS OUT I'M NOT TATEISHI HIDEYO...

HE'LL DEFINITELY LEAVE ME!
YOU LOOK PALE.
I'M FINE
...OH?
Don't mind it...
LET'S REST FOR A WHILE.
BUT, I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW,
I CAN'T END EVERYTHING HERE.
BY THE WAY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING,
WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM?
!!
EH?! AH! THIS?!
NO REASON!
IT'S JUST A PROBLEM OF WHEN HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT!
...
OI!
WHO'S THERE?!
THEY FOUND US!

ZAA
!!
RUN AWAY NOW!
EH!
WA-
Dash
KNO
CK
THUD
DAMN
YOU!

Step
Step
Hai
...
THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHERE ARE WE?
...
BECAUSE YOU HAD A SERIOUS NOSEBLEED, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DIE!
I'M NOT SURE,
PROBABLY THE FURTHEST SIDE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR
YOU DRAGGED ME ALONG ALL THE WAY HERE WITH THEM SEARCHING FOR US?!
YOU DID SOMETHING VERY DANGEROUS!
NOW,
I CAN GO OFF ON MY OWN.

I DON'T WANT ANYONE SACRIFICING THEMSELVES FOR ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO LET'S SPLIT UP.
YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE ALONE
IF I'M WITH SARUBOU, THE CHANCES OF ESCAPING ARE DEFINITELY HIGH.
I CAN ESCAPE ON MY OWN TOO!
SO...
BUT WITH ME AROUND,
I CAN'T DO THAT,
I—
"MUST PROTECT TATEISHI-SAMA"?
IF SO, THEN WE DON'T HAVE TO DISCUSS FURTHER
SARUBOU WON'T MIND YOUR LIFE AT ALL, RIGHT?

I...
I LIKE PLAYING THE VIOLIN,
I PRACTICED AND PRACTICED,
AND RECENTLY, I WON A VERY ASTOUNDING PRIZE.
NOR AM I SOME RICH OR IMPORTANT MAN'S DAUGHTER
I'M...
NOT TATEISHI HIDEYO.

MY NAME IS OMINE KAYANO,
BECAUSE I RECEIVED SUCH AN ASTOUNDING PRIZE AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, I EASILY ATTRACTED ATTENTION
I WAS INVITED TO THE PARTY FOR A VIOLIN PERFORMANCE,
BECAUSE IT WAS RARE FOR A STUDENT TO WIN, SO THEY ASKED ME TO WEAR MY SCHOOL UNIFORM.
PLEASE REMEMBER IT,
BECAUSE ONE DAY, I'LL BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST RENOWNED VIOLINIST!
THUMP THUMP
OI! THEY'RE IN THIS ROOM!
AH! IT'S THEM!
OPEN THE DOOR!
RUN RUN RUN
RUN RUN

...
TAKE CARE.
...I WONDER HOW MANY OF THEM ARE OUTSIDE
I CAN'T GUARANTEE WE'LL BE SAFE.
YOU UNDERSTAND RIGHT, SARUBOU-KUN.
WHEN THEY MANAGE TO COME IN, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST ESCAPE ON YOUR OWN,
EVEN IF THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR,
IT LOOKS DEEP ENOUGH.
THERE'S A LAKE JUST OUTSIDE,
I'LL SURELY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!

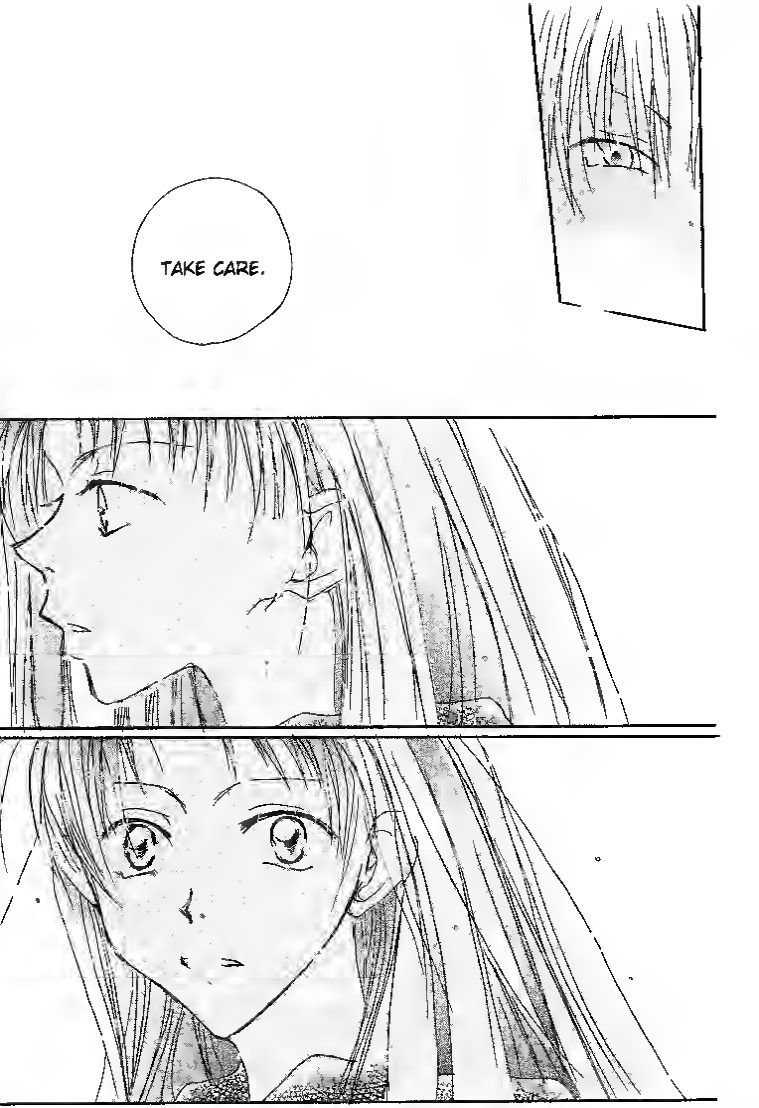
BAM!

SHOOTING SOUND
Da Da Da Da Da Da
WAAH?!
They're opening fire?!
AH! SHIT!
WE'RE BEING SURROUNDED BY THE POLICE AND THEY'VE ENTERED THE BUILDING!
EH?!
TSK, THEY JUMPED DOWN!
WHEN THEY FLOAT UP, OPEN FIRE AT THEM!
Splash
Shuuuu
Haaa
Sp
lash
Cough
Cough
Cough
THANK YOU, SARUBOU-KUN.

*BIG SISTER

ARISA-CHAN.
WE'VE TAKEN A LEAD
FORTUNATELY, YOU AND SARUBOU-KUN MANAGED TO ESCAPE JUST WHEN THEY FORCED THEMSELVES IN
WHERE'S SARUBOU-KUN?
WE TOLD THE POLICE ABOUT THE SITUATION INSIDE AND THE NUMBER OF THEM
THANK GOODNESS EVERYONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE!
Splash
YES
AH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET,
MIFUNE ARISA!
I'M EZU KYOUKO.
HE ALREADY LEFT.
OH...

I KNOW! OMINE KAYANO!
I'M...
I ACTUALLY ONLY CAME TO THE PARTY BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU PERFORM!
THIS PROBABLY HAPPENED PROBABLY BECAUSE OF MY FATHER
AND I'M... TATEISHI HIDEYO


TAKE CARE.

TAKE CARE

AFTERWORD

Atsui Hibi

"A guy and a girl on a bridge, seeing another guy in the water. Because I had an urge to draw something like that, this story came to be. I always thought that readers usually get excited from a thought like 'Who should I kill next?', so I did my best and I hope no one was able to predict the ending. Kuniyoshi and his gang made me really happy.

Ikeda who was fated to undergo an unfortunate life, was a character I wanted to draw really nicely.

Kinda Day like Before

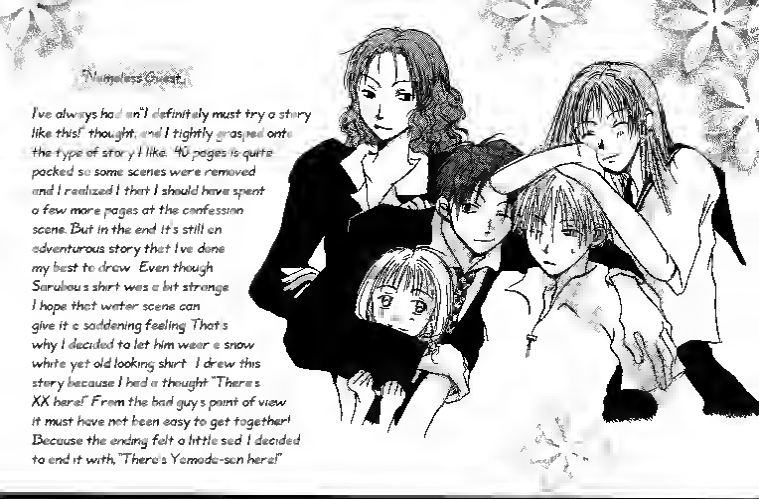
At first, I wanted to use fake names for the whole thing, but because it looked strange, I decided not to. Is very very cold liver? The meaning is very deep when I think about it. Lovers... Ah, a bit sidetracked? Anyway back to my thoughts on the story! Tooyama's eyes were red drawn over and over again exactly 12 times. She's a lively but kind of daydream-ish type of girl. I even tried to draw Murozono more with other risks. As Ikeda is a bit violent he wouldn't really get too close with girls. Though Tooyama might face a lot of problems, she'll still manage to solve them. Not Ikeda but these fuzzy stuffs.

Flower's Marking

I had previously wanted to draw a heroic type of girl, but because Kikuchi is such a gentle girl, even Kurata felt like getting close to her. So with 50 pages at hand, I was really frustrated. What could I do but to just draw with pure vigor? But I still managed to draw it out nicely. To drowny Kikuchi and Kurata's thoughts was really difficult but I enjoyed it.

Whenever I had the fever when I was young, I always dreamed of flowers just twirling while they fell to the ground.

Tamao-sen, thank you very much.



"Nameless Guest"

I've always had an "I definitely must try a story like this!" thought, and I tightly grasped onto the type of story I like. 40 pages is quite packed so some scenes were removed and I realized I that I should have spent a few more pages at the confession scene. But in the end it's still an adventurous story that I've done my best to draw. Even though Saruhou's shirt was a bit strange I hope that water scene can give it a saddening feeling. That's why I decided to let him wear a snow white yet old looking shirt. I drew this story because I had a thought "There's XX here!" From the bad guy's point of view it must have not been easy to get together! Because the ending felt a little sad I decided to end it with, "There's Yamada-san here!"

SO HOW DID EVERYONE FIND IT?
WHILE DRAWING ATSUI HIBI I FOUND A LOT OF
HARD AND HAPPY MOMENTS. IF I GET THE CHANCE,
I'D LIKE TO DRAW SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN!
(BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF SMALL STORIES)

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU THOUGHT!

The first volume of
Akaku Saku Koe is already out!
It's currently the first story that is filled with a cold yet warm feeling of romance that has been torturing me nonstop.
I hope everyone will read it

-ADDRESS-

THANK YOU TO ALL MY COLLEAGUES AND READERS
WHO HAVE BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH ME!
I WILL AIM TO DRAW MORE INTERESTING STORIES!

I hope we can meet again, so farewell for now!

2003 3 /Midorikawa Yuki

AFTERWORD/END